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PLAN OF MANAGEMENT **CANON ROAD RECREATION AREA**



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CANOON ROAD RECREATION AREA
SOUTH TURRAMURRA

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

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REVISION CONTROL

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 About this Study

The Role of this document

A Plan of Management (PoM) is a document adopted by Council which guides the management of particular categories or specific areas of community land that are within the direct ownership of Council, or under the care and management of Council.

PoM documents typically have a strategic focus and intentionally do not provide specific details in regard to how works or actions are to be performed or achieved in the future; instead they provide a framework for all projects that will be conducted and recommendations of how an area will be used, improved, maintained and managed into the future.

Scope of the Plan of Management

In February 2014 Ku-ring-gai Council (KC) commissioned Spackman Mossop Michaels (SMM) to prepare a Draft Plan of Management for the Canoon Road Recreation Area located at the western end of Canoon Road in South Turramurra. (See Figure 1.1) The PoM addresses issues both within and beyond the Recreation Area boundary and seeks to identify strategies that will provide effective solutions to the full range of issues including active and passive recreation, access, movement and parking.

This PoM has considered the previous adopted PoM 2000, and builds on the strategies identified in that Plan.

Background to this Plan of Management

On the 5th December 1977 Ku-ring-gai Council resolved to construct the Canoon Road Recreation Area which included 25 sealed netball courts and 266 parking spaces in bushland at the western end of Canoon Road.

At the time there was significant opposition from local residents to the new sports facility however the construction went ahead in 1978, based on the need for a large consolidated sports facility in the region as well as the perceived lack of other suitable locations in the LGA.

Since then residents have continued to raise concerns regarding the impact of the facility on the local area. In mid 1998 a Discussion Paper was exhibited and received 815 submissions. The next year a series of facilitated workshops was held with local residents, netball representatives and Councillors and Council staff. These workshops culminated in the signing of a Facilitation Agreement and vision statement which was endorsed on 25 May 1999 and from this, a PoM for the Canoon Road Recreation Area was adopted in June



Plate 1.1: Saturday morning netball games



Plate 1.2: The bushland setting across the Recreation Area

INTRODUCTION

2000. This PoM document outlined a number of strategies that were intended to be explored to achieve the objectives in terms of the issues relating to Canoon Road Recreation Area at that time.

A summary and progress statement for each of the strategies is listed in Table 1.1 on the following pages.

Purpose of the revised Plan of Management

In 1999 when the facilitated agreement was endorsed by Council it supported the investigation of suitable local alternate sites and construction of facilities to reduce usage of Cannon Road and meet the current and future needs for netball in Ku-ring-gai. It is important to note that the agreement also sets out a clause stating that ‘...in the event a suitable alternative site cannot be located within a reasonable period of time then a new Plan of Management shall be prepared which addresses those issues at Canoon Road.’ While many of the aims set out in the 1999 PoM were achieved, Ku-ring-gai Council has resolved in March 2007 to prepare a new PoM to capture current issues, values and opportunities for the Canoon Road site.

This Plan of Management then has a role in helping the community gain a better understanding of the often complex day to day management of Council’s public lands. These management processes can take the form of routine and ongoing maintenance of recreation and bushland areas, the design and construction of new sporting and community facilities, and the management of community services such fire trails as well as environmentally and ecologically sensitive areas of remnant bushland.

This PoM establishes a firm outline for the long term sustainable management of the recreation area and bushland surrounds in order to ensure that it continues to be a valuable asset for recreational and sports users as well as residents so that everyone can pursue a healthy lifestyle.

This Plan has been developed in order to fulfil the following objectives:

- Develop a Plan of Management for the Canoon Road recreation area in consultation with Council staff, local community and user groups.
- Minimise visual, noise and traffic impacts to the surrounding residential areas.
- Retain the natural environment character and reinstate where possible Ecological Community vegetation which has been removed.
- Maximise the range of active and passive recreational opportunities.
- Provide netball facilities that meet the identified current and future sport in Ku-ring-gai.

- Identify potential long term solutions to the existing traffic and parking problems.

Structure of this document

The Plan of Management comprises a series of management recommendations in the form of policies, strategies and actions, and a site masterplan which illustrates the main physical components of the Recreation Area and immediate surrounds and identifies locations for future actions. The content of each section is summarised below:

1. Introduction: Explains the reasons for undertaking the Plan of Management, what has been considered and how the report is structured.
2. Community Land Planning: Discusses local planning Acts and policies under which public land, which is under control of Council, should be maintained.
3. The Region: Provides information about the Ku-ring-gai Council region and the local context of the site including its relationship to adjoining land and residential and sporting communities as it exists today.
4. The Site: Provides information about the Canoon Road Recreation Area as it exists today.
5. The Values: identifies what are the existing values of the site, and why they are important moving forward.
6. Key Issues: identifies the key issues across the site and the surrounding areas that need to be considered in order to improve/upgrade the Recreation Area and protect the identified values.
7. Vision: based on an assessment of this Plan of Management, this statement defines a vision for the Recreation Area and immediate surrounds.
8. Management Strategy: outlines core objectives and key actions for improving the Recreation Area, in light of the values and key issues, and illustrates the key strategic recommendations.
9. Action Plan: Lists key actions to be investigated in order to address the identified issues and meet the core objectives for the site.
10. Monitoring Program: Set-out of timelines for the periodic review of key actions and core objectives.

INTRODUCTION

Table 1.1: Review of Strategy Plan in PoM 2000

Strategy	Implementation/Progress
Issue 4.2 Traffic and Parking	
Objective	To reduce the impacts of traffic and parking from Canoon Road Recreation area on residences in the locality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressively reduce usage at Canoon Road Recreation area from regional to municipal to local over a maximum 10 year period. 	<p>This was partly achieved in 2006 through the implementation of car parking on four netball courts at Canoon Road and the transfer of netball to four floodlit courts at Lofberg Road in West Pymble.</p> <p>The latest PoM introduces permanent lighting on a maximum of 9 of the 21 courts at the Canoon Road Recreation Area for mid-week use in order to reduce the number of Saturday games. It is intended that this will reduce local impacts on Saturdays in terms of traffic, parking and noise.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate and locate alternative site(s) for development of netball facilities 	<p>In August 2002 Council resolved to investigate the potential of the Greenwood Quarry site for netball and other sporting facilities. Greenwood Quarry is Crown Land in Terry Hills within the Warringah Council LGA located a few hundred metres past the Honda roadcraft training centre on the same side of Mona Vale Rd. The site is managed directly by the Crown Lands Division and leased directly to a commercial enterprise.</p> <p>The Greenwood Quarry Feasibility Study was completed in 2006 by consultants GHD Pty Ltd and in 2007 Council resolved not to proceed with any further investigation of this area as a netball location, due mainly to the significant financial, environmental and timing issues involved. In early 2015 Warringah Council also confirmed that the quarry site is still in commercial use with a mining lease over it and that it will be at least 10 years before it is available for alternative uses.</p> <p>Ku-ring-gai Council has also investigated alternative existing locations to spread existing use and any future growth of netball, including Regimental Park tennis courts Killara, Queen Elizabeth Reserve tennis courts Lindfield, and Warrimoo Oval tennis courts St Ives Chase. Unfortunately none of these sites are suitable for competition netball but could make good training courts if they are floodlit, and if the benefits can be justified against the costs - financially, environmentally and socially.</p> <p>Regimental Park courts (5) are undersized for competition, and would therefore require expansion. Parking is inadequate and there are neighbours living in reasonably close proximity.</p> <p>Queen Elizabeth Reserve courts (4) are undersized for competition, and would therefore require expansion. There are neighbours living in very close proximity.</p> <p>Warrimoo Oval courts (3) already have lights but are undersized for competition and would therefore require expansion. Expansion would be very challenging and expensive to achieve due to steep bushland immediately adjacent to the courts.</p> <p>Prior to the adoption of the Canoon Road Recreation Area Plan of Management in 2000, St Ives Showground was also explored and it was resolved by Council that the site was inappropriate for hard surface sports requiring more than 1000 m2 (St Ives Showground Plan of Management, 1999).</p>
Issue 4.3 Netball Facilities	
Objective	Accommodate current and future needs of netball at other locations from Canoon Road Recreation Area within resource constraints and in accordance with the Facilitation agreement endorsed by council on 25 May 1999
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the recommendations of the facilitation agreement in relation to provision of new / alternative facilities for netball. 	<p>Greenwood Quarry Feasibility Study was completed in 2006 and in March 2007 Council resolved not to proceed with any further investigation of the quarry as a netball location, as discussed in Issue 4.2.</p>

Strategy	Implementation/Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate off-site opportunity to provide facilities that meet the current and future needs for netball in Ku-ring-gai. 	<p>Greenwood Quarry Feasibility Study completed (2006) as described in Issue 4.2.</p> <p>The Lofberg Road Netball courts at West Pymble were resolved by Council in 2005 to be used for Saturday winter competition to reduce impact on Canoon Road from the start of the 2006 season. These four floodlit courts cater for KNA's Net Set Go program for the younger members of KNA on Saturdays during the Winter season. They are also utilised by KNA for a mid-week spring competition for all ages from September to November.</p> <p>Potential satellite netball sites such as Regimental Park tennis courts Killara, Queen Elizabeth Reserve tennis courts Lindfield, and Warrimoo Oval tennis courts St Ives Chase were found to be unsuitable, as discussed in Issue 4.2.</p> <p>Due to a scarcity of useable open space for a new netball facility to be constructed within Ku-ring-gai of similar size to Canoon Road's 21 courts (not including the four courts used for parking), no alternative facilities have been identified that meet the current and future needs for netball in Ku-ring-gai. Nothing larger than four courts at Regimental Park Killara and Queen Elizabeth Reserve Lindfield that also has potential for appropriate supporting infrastructure, such as floodlighting and parking, has been identified.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If an alternative site cannot be found within 2 years of adoption of the Plan then a new plan will be prepared which will address on-site issues and netball facilities at Canoon Road. 	<p>Identification of Greenwood Quarry was reported to Council in 2002. As described In Issue 4.2 a subsequent feasibility investigation of the site was completed in 2006 and reported to Council in 2007.</p> <p>St Ives Showground has also been investigated and found to be unsuitable as a netball site due the significant impact on Duffy's Forest Endangered Ecological community that a netball facility would cause, and the fact that the St Ives Showground Plan of Management 1999 specifically limits any new hard surface facility to 1000m², which is only large enough for two netball courts.</p> <p>As no alternative sites that are suitable for netball competition can be found, a review of the Canoon Road Plan of Management is required. The new Plan of Management will need to retain KNA at the site for the foreseeable future.</p>

Issue 4.4 Catchment Management / Impacts on Bushland

Objective To minimise the impact of Canoon Road Recreation Area upon the adjoining bushland and the Lane Cove River Catchment

To preserve and/or increase remnant bushland within Canoon Road Recreation area

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide clear delineation between developed areas of the site (courts, pathways etc) and remnant bushland on the site (i.e. logs, low scale fencing etc) 	<p>This has been undertaken although some further work is required and some targeting of resources will achieve a better result, particularly in the car parking areas.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake works in accordance with the landscape sketch plan prepared for the site to assist in minimising on and off site erosion. 	<p>Site regeneration has taken place, particularly since the bushfires of 2001. Replanting of the site is ongoing and ecological burns in small sections of bushland around the car park and courts are being planned in 2015. Weed removal was the major focus of site works post 2000 and more recently bush regeneration has been the focus.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage remnant bushland at Canoon Road Recreation Area in accordance with the objectives of the Bushland Plan of Management 	<p>Revised Bushland Reserve Plan of Management adopted in May 2006 and revised in 2013.</p> <p>Species listed in Darwinia Biflora Recovery Plan.</p>

Issue 4.5 Lighting

Objective To prohibit night lighting at Canoon Road Recreation Area

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate locations where floodlit courts could be provided/ made available with minimal impact on adjoining land uses. 	<p>Investigation of the use of floodlit tennis courts as 'satellite' training locations has been implemented at St Ives Village Green (2 full tennis courts and 2 half tennis courts), Roseville Park (1 full tennis court), and Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Park (4 half tennis courts).</p> <p>Four floodlit netball training courts have also been included as part of the North Turramurra Recreation Area (NTRA) Master Plan. These floodlit courts are expected to be completed and ready for training during the 2016 winter season.</p> <p>Other potential floodlit locations have been identified above in sections 4.2 and 4.3.</p>
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Strategy	Implementation/Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Night lighting at Canoon Road is prohibited. 	No floodlighting has occurred at the site, however it is recommended on up to 9 of the 21 courts in the Draft Plan of Management 2015 for the reasons specified in the draft plan. This lighting will allow tennis court hire on up to 5 of the 9 courts when the courts are not being used for netball.

Issue 4.6 Maintenance

Objective To maintain Canoon Road Recreation Area to an agreed standard in the most competitive manner available

- Identify and implement an agreed maintenance standard for all facilities within Canoon Road Recreation Area. This has been undertaken annually in line with budget and resource availability.

Issue 4.7 Safety / Risk Management

Objective To provide a safe environment for users of and visitors to Canoon Road Recreation Area

- Carry out a risk assessment of Canoon Road Recreation Area to identify the range and magnitude of potential risks to visitors and users of the facility. Bollards have been installed at the entrance to Canoon Road netball courts to prevent vehicle access onto courts and night traffic. Ongoing risk management is undertaken by staff on weekly site inspection and Council's CRS system is utilised to request repairs as necessary including pathways and access to the site. The courts are patrolled each night by security personnel at Council's expense.

Issue 4.8 Equity

Objective To minimise the potential for negative impacts from noise associated with usage of Canoon Road Recreation Area

- In conjunction with Ku-ring-gai Netball Association investigate different whistles, commensurate with the needs of netball, to minimise noise impacts on adjoining residents. KNA have previously altered whistles and have a management strategy in relation to the use of whistles on game and practice days.
- Provide facilities which meet the identified needs of netball. This is currently not being achieved. Councils 25 sealed netball courts across two sites are being used to their maximum capacity throughout the winter season as permitted in their respective Plans of Management (Canoon Road Recreation Area and Bicentennial Park).

Issue 4.9 Noise

Objective Provide facilities to meet identified need for netball in accordance with the provisions of the facilitated agreement endorsed by Council on 25 May 1999.

- Seek alternative site(s) for netball in accordance with the facilitated agreement. Greenwood Quarry Feasibility Study completed in 2006, and adopted by Council in 2007 as discussed in 4.2 and 4.3 above. Other sites also investigated as discussed in 4.2 and 4.3 above.
- In conjunction with Ku-ring-gai Netball Association investigate management / use options for the public address system to minimise noise impacts on adjoining residents. PA system announcements have been minimised to essential announcements required for the conduct of the competition with the exception of major days or finals where sponsors receive some mention and various other announcements are undertaken.
- In conjunction with Ku-ring-gai Netball Association and local residents annually review measures being undertaken to minimise noise impacts from usage of Canoon Road Recreation Area. More work including on-site acoustics surveying in this area needs to be undertaken and continually improved.

INTRODUCTION

1.2 Study Approach

How this plan was prepared

Developing the Draft Plan of Management for the Canoon Road Recreation Area has involved a number of key steps, including meeting with key stakeholders and consultation with the community.

In addition, a strong emphasis has been placed on understanding the history, the natural values of the area, and active and passive recreation potential of the area, and developing directions that will be valued by the broad community.

Consultations

Development of preliminary draft plan of management (including site master plan) was prepared after the following consultation:

- Meetings with key user groups including the KNA and relevant Council staff;
- Two community consultation sessions;
- A further 6 week public exhibition period inviting written comment.

This Plan of Management draws on the findings of the consultations and research, and provides management strategies and actions aimed at addressing the identified issues and needs. It also includes a Site Master Plan to guide the design and development of the site. The document will be provided for exhibition and comment to enable the completion of the Plan of Management.

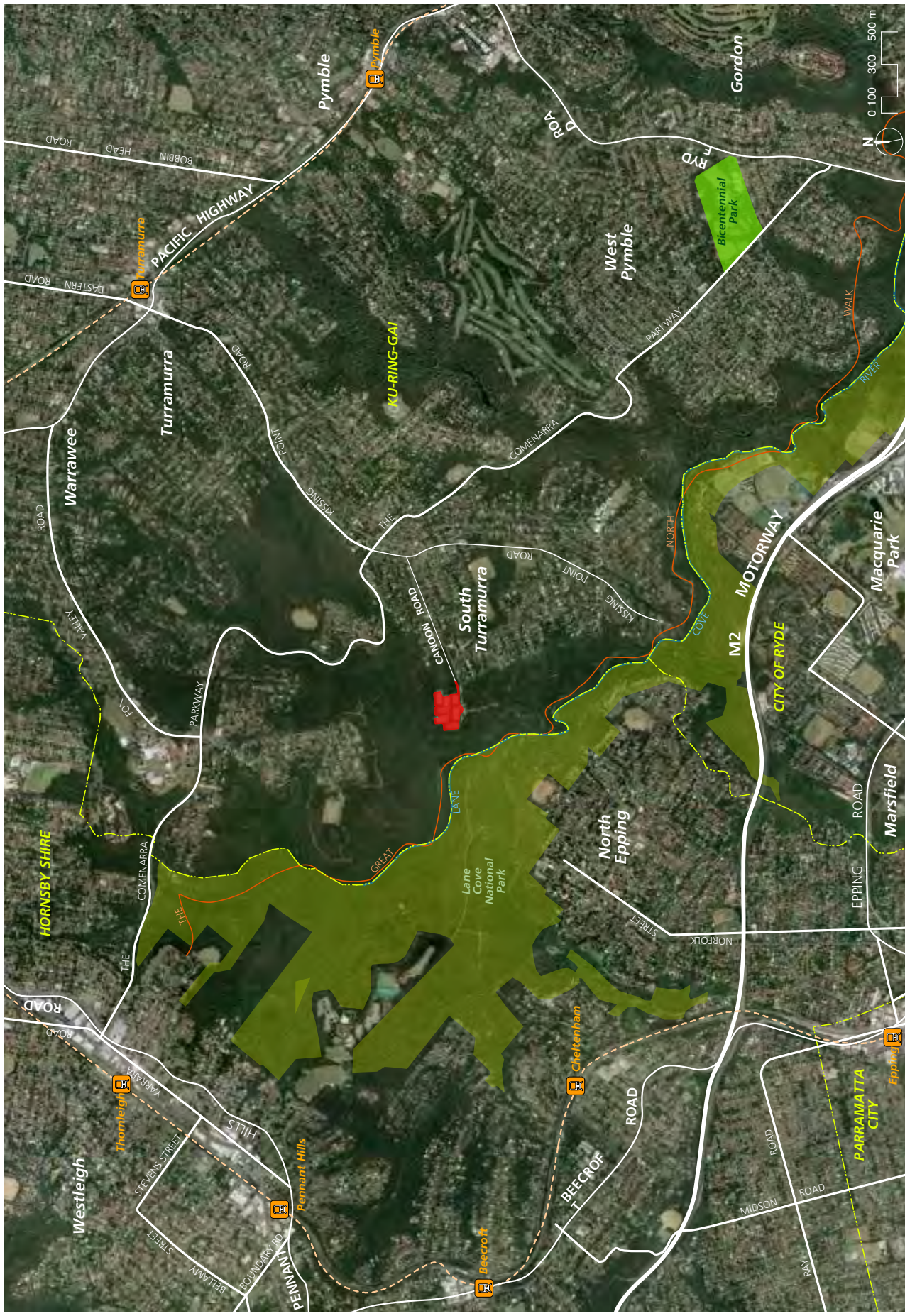
The final Plan of Management will be a working document that provides the direction for developing and managing the Recreation Area, and determining the priorities for the immediate and longer term.



Plate 1.3: Established trees adjacent the Canoon Road carpark



Plate 1.4: Activity on game days



- LEGEND**
- CANOON ROAD RECREATION AREA
 - AREA
 - LANE COVE NATIONAL PARK
 - GREAT NORTH WALK
 - MOTORWAY
 - STATE ROAD
 - REGIONAL ROAD
 - COLLECTOR ROAD
 - LOCAL ROAD
 - TRAIN LINE
 - TRAIN STATION
 - LOCAL LGA BOUNDARIES

Figure 1.1: Regional Context Plan

2 COMMUNITY LAND PLANNING

2.1 Planning framework

This Plan of Management is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993. It provides a strategic framework for future management of Ku-ring-gai Canoon Road Recreation Area. Specific details about how works or actions are to be performed or achieved are not included. This approach allows innovation and flexibility in the implementation of the Plan of Management.

Public land is defined as any land vested in or under control of Council. All public land must be classified as either community or operational land. Classification as community land reflects the importance of the land to the community because of its use or special features.

Under the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, Canoon Road Recreation Area is classified as Community Land. Community Land must be managed in accordance with an adopted Plan of Management and until such a plan is prepared and adopted, the nature of the land and use cannot be altered.

Although this Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, the strategic direction of the Council must also be taken into consideration. Therefore, this Plan has also been prepared in accordance with Council's Community Strategic Plan 2030 and related Delivery Program and Operational Plan. Actions listed within this Plan of Management will be transferred to Council's annual Delivery Program and operational plan and then to work plans of staff. Other policy documents which have relevance to this Plan include:

- Bushland Reserves Plan of Management (2009)
- Generic Parks Plan of Management (2005)
- Sports Facilities Plan Of Management (2010)
- Management of Community and Recreation Land and Facilities Policy (2010)
- Sportsground Wet Weather Policy (2003)
- Community Halls and Meeting Rooms Plan of Management (2000)
- Sport in Ku-Ring-Gai Strategy, KMC (2006)

2.2 Categorisation

Under Division 3, Section 36, Clause 4 of the Local Government Act 1993, Plans of Management for Community Land must categorise the land covered by the plan. The Act provides the following options for categorisation:

- park
- sportsground
- area of cultural significance
- general community use
- Area of Cultural Significance
- Natural area as:
 - » Bushland
 - » Wetland
 - » Escarpment
 - » Water course
 - » Foreshore

For the purpose of Section 36F, Clause 4, land identified within this Plan of Management is categorised as a sportsground or general community use.

Figure 1.2 defines the categorisation breakdown of the site. The Local Government Act 1993 specifies the following core objectives for community land categorised as:

General community use:

To promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:

- in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and
- in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).

Sportsground:

- to encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games, and
- to ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.

These core objectives have been integrated into the objectives throughout this Plan. (Figure 1.2 pg.13)

- LEGEND
- SITE BOUNDARY
- SPORTSGROUND
- GENERAL COMMUNITY

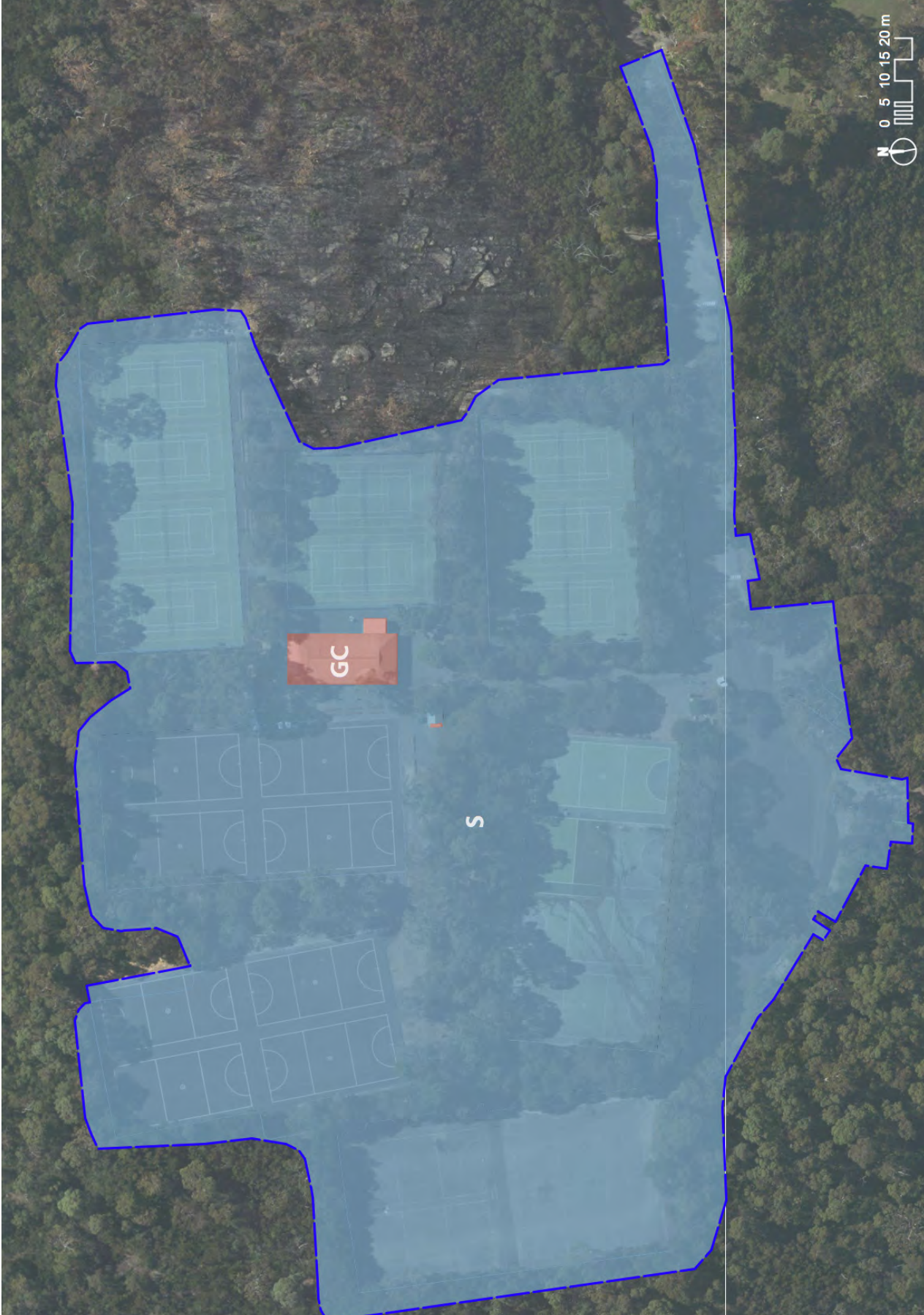


Figure 1.2: Categorisation

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3 LOCAL CONTEXT

3.1 Location

The Canoon Road Recreation Area is a 3.3 hectare site located in the suburb of South Turramurra, 18 kilometers north-west of the Sydney central business district in the local government area (LGA) of Ku-ring-gai Council. (Figure 1.3 pg.15)

Situated in a bushland reserve area, the Recreation Area is also sited adjacent low density residential area which forms part of South Turramurra to the south-east of the site.

3.2 Ku-ring-gai LGA

Located in an elevated position on part of the Hornsby Plateau, South Turramurra is fringed by major bushland reserves to the north which provide contiguous habitat areas adjoining Garigal National Park to the east, Lane Cove National Park to the west and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park to the north.

The Lane Cove River runs at the base of steep gullies just 500m west of the Recreation Area and sits within a zone that is considered to be of ecological importance in the region.

Several major transport routes border the suburb and include the Pacific Highway and North Shore railway line in the north-east and the M2 Motorway in the south.

Low density residential development to the south-east of the Recreation Area is comprised of a mix of original and renovated free standing homes often sited on large, densely vegetated blocks.

Ku-ring-gai LGA has nearly 4,300 hectares of open space which is made up of:

- 4000 hectares of bushland (1100 hectares which is Council managed bushland);
- 300 hectares of developed open space; and
- 53 hectares of sports grounds.

Of the sports grounds, 2% of the area is comprised of:

- 29 netball courts;
- 71 tennis courts at 20 locations; and
- semi-private sports facilities such as bowling clubs.

Canoon Road is the primary netball facility in the LGA providing 25 of the total 29 netball courts (4 of which are permanently used for car parking at Canoon Road) with the remaining four courts located at the Lofberg Oval some 4km south-east of the Canoon Road facility.

Four floodlit tennis courts at St Ives Village are also used for netball training, as is one tennis court at Roseville Park.

Finally, 4 netball training courts (for midweek training only) are due for construction in 2015/16 at North Turramurra Recreation Area.



Figure 1.3: Site location within Sydney Region

Around 250km of regional, State and STEP walking trails including The Great North Walk, extend between Sydney and Newcastle through the Lane Cove National Park and can be accessed from the Canoon Road Recreational Area. (Figure 1.1 pg.11)

3.3 Demographic profile

Ku-ring-gai Community Strategic plan 2030 states:

The population of Ku-ring-gai is currently 114,700 and growing at a steady rate with the area expected to reach about 134,000 people by 2036. Ku-ring-gai has a unique age profile characterised by:

- less children aged 0 - 4
- more children aged 5 - 11 and young people aged 12 - 17
- less young people aged 18 - 24 years.
- significantly less working aged people aged 25 - 34
- more increasing older people 60 - 69 years, 70 - 84 years and 85+ years

Ku-ring-gai is dominated by couple families with children, who make up nearly half of all households. Reflecting the predominance of family households, the average household size in 2011 was 2.9 persons, compared to the Sydney average of 2.7 persons. This is expected to change over the coming decade with growing numbers of lone person households and couples without children.

LOCAL CONTEXT

These new residents, especially younger children and families, and young adults, are likely to change the balance of demand for open space resources within Ku-ring-gai. There are likely to be, for example, significant increases in demands for children's play areas and for formal sports facilities.

3.4 The Community

Needs and expectations

The main community needs identified by this study for the Canoon Road Recreation Area are based on consultations with the community, user groups, the demographic analysis, the review of previous studies, research and analysis. These needs are summarised below:

- Improve traffic management to help minimise traffic congestion and disruptions for surrounding residential areas.
- Conservation of the natural environmental character, ensuring flora and fauna habitats are conserved, enhanced and protected so that they contribute to the environmental diversity and help to off-set areas of removed Ecological Community vegetation;
- Reduce/ remove ad hoc parking in fire trails and surrounding bushland areas;
- Enhance landscape character across the Recreation Area to improve visual amenity and visitor experience;
- Increase and improve off-street parking where possible;
- Upgrade the sporting facilities;
- Upgrade and expand picnic and barbecue facilities, seating and shelters. Such upgrades, where practical, to be made accessible to all people;
- Improve and upgrade access to walking and biking trails in the natural bushland areas adjacent the Recreation Area.

3.5 Planning context

Zoning

The Canoon Road Recreation Area is public land owned by Ku-ring-gai Council is zoned as a Public Recreation Area (RE1) under Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015, Land Use Zones. Public Recreation Area (RE1) permits and provides for a wide range of public recreation areas and activities including local open space together with a range of land uses.

The land surrounding the Recreation Area to the south east is

zoned Residential (R2) which is low density residential. This low density housing, is to be established or maintained. The zoning objectives also encourage the provision of facilities or services that meet the day-to-day needs of residents.

Relevant legislation and policy

The site and adjacent areas are relevant to the following documents:

- Bushland Reserves Plan of Management adopted 2013;
- Sports Facilities Plan of Management adopted 2010;
- Sport in Ku-ring-gai Strategy adopted 2006;



Plate 1.5: Primary netball courts on asphalt

LOCAL CONTEXT

3.6 South Turramurra

Topography and landform

The Canoon Road Recreation Area is located within the Lane Cove River Catchment on a prominent sandstone spur. Typical of the local context are ridge tops, plateaus and exposed slopes of sandstone with coarse grained shallow sandy soils. These nutrient-poor soils are highly erodible and hence are extremely susceptible to disturbance. Typically erosion increases substantially wherever the vegetation is disturbed, and can be particularly severe following bush fires, while minor to severe gullyng frequently occurs on unpaved roads and tracks. (Figure 1.4 pg.19)

Vegetation

Highly valued ecological communities surround the Recreation Area. The two dominant communities are Sydney Sandstone Ridge top Woodland and the Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest. The 'Ku-ring-gai Bushland Reserves, Plan of Management, November 2013 lists the dominant species for each community as:

- Sydney Sandstone Ridge top Woodland - this vegetation community is characterised by diverse vegetation structure varying considerably between communities from woodland to open forest to low open woodland. Dominant canopy species include: Red Bloodwood (*Corymbia gummifera*), Silvertop Ash (*Eucalyptus sieberi*), Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus haemastoma*), Sydney Red Gum (*Angophora costata*) and Sydney Peppermint (*Eucalyptus piperita*). (Plate 1.6 pg.17)
- The Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest - This diverse plant community characterised by dense understorey, large ecological diversity and as a structure that varies from tall open forest, to open forest to closed forest. The dominant canopy species vary depending on the specific sub-community. Canopy species include Sydney Red Gum (*Angophora costata*), Red Bloodwood (*Corymbia gummifera*), Sydney Peppermint (*Eucalyptus piperita*), Silvertop Ash (*Eucalyptus sieberi*), Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*), Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*), Lillipilly (*Acmena smithii*), Coachwood (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*) and Forest Oak (*Allocasuarina torulosa*). (Plate 1.7 pg.17)



Plate 1.6: Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus haemastoma*) adjacent Court 19



Plate 1.7: Forest Oak (*Allocasuarina torulosa*) adjacent Court 16

LOCAL CONTEXT

Residential/ land Use

Across Ku-ring-gai the main housing growth period was after the North Shore Railway was opened in 1890 and between World War 1 and World War 2. South Turramurra can be described as a low density residential suburb.

Canoon Road is bounded on both sides by predominantly single-storey original and renovated 1920s and 1930s bungalows and there is a uniform appearance in the area which stems from well established large gardens and street tree plantings. As well, the local streetscapes are strongly characterised by vegetated rather than constructed fence lines. (Plate 1.8 pg.18)

South Turramurra Shopping Village is located on the corner of Auluba Road and Kissing Point Road. It features a bakery, butchery, post office, newsagent, pharmacy, grocery, liquor shop and a gourmet pizza shop.

A new residential sub division of 26 lots has recently been jointly constructed and sold by Council and the NSW Department of Planning and is located approximately 400m south east of the site and has a new street connecting Chisholm Street and Barwon Avenue.

Traffic and parking

The Comenarra Parkway, to the east of the Recreation Area, is a state road which links to Canoon Road via Kissing Point Road. Canoon Road is the primary residential street on approach to the Recreation Area and is a local street which typically has two trafficable lanes in either direction and parking adjacent each kerb. (Plate 1.9 pg.18)

Traffic counts were undertaken on Canoon Road in 2009 and recorded the following information which confirmed that Saturday traffic increased significantly. The figures were:

WEST BOUND

- 685 weekday movements
- 2034 Saturday movements

EAST BOUND

- 673 weekday movements
- 2792 Saturday movements

While these surveys are almost six years old they are still considered to be valid as netball registrations have remained approximately the same since 2009 due to the capacity of the site which has restricted the association from growing it's member numbers in this time.

Turramurra railway station is located approximately 3km to the north-east of the area and Shorelink bus route 571 runs along Kissing Point Road, and route 572 runs along Canoon Road linking to Macquarie University and Hornsby.



Plate 1.8: Typical bungalow style houses set in landscaped gardens



Plate 1.9: East bound queuing traffic on Canoon Road

The KNA have informed Council that shuttle services from the trains stations has been tried unsuccessfully as families simply do not have the time on the weekends to coordinate and wait for the service especially with numerous other sports commitments and events they must attend.

Signal phasing was altered in 2006/2007 at the Kissing Point Road and The Comenarra Parkway intersection to improve egress out of South Turramurra on Saturdays during netball season.

During community consultation session held in November 2014 some Canoon Road residents informed Council officers

- LEGEND**
- SITE BOUNDARY ---
 - CONTOURS 20M ---
 - BUSHLAND COMMUNITIES
 - STONEY SANDSTONE
 - GREY SANDSTONE
 - SWELLY SANDSTONE
 - GULLY FOREST
 - RIVERS AND CREEKS
 - WATER COURSE - RIVER ---
 - WATER COURSE - CREEK ---
 - WALKING TRAILS
 - GREAT NORTH WALK ---
 - STEP TRACK ---
 - WALKING TRAIL ---
 - ZONING
 - BUSINESS
 - SPECIAL USE
 - PARK
 - RESIDENTIAL
 - NATURAL AREA
 - NATIONAL PARK
 - FUTURE LOCAL ROAD
 - CONNECTION
 - PUBLIC TRANSPORT
 - 571 - TURRAMURRA TO SOUTH TURRAMURRA ---

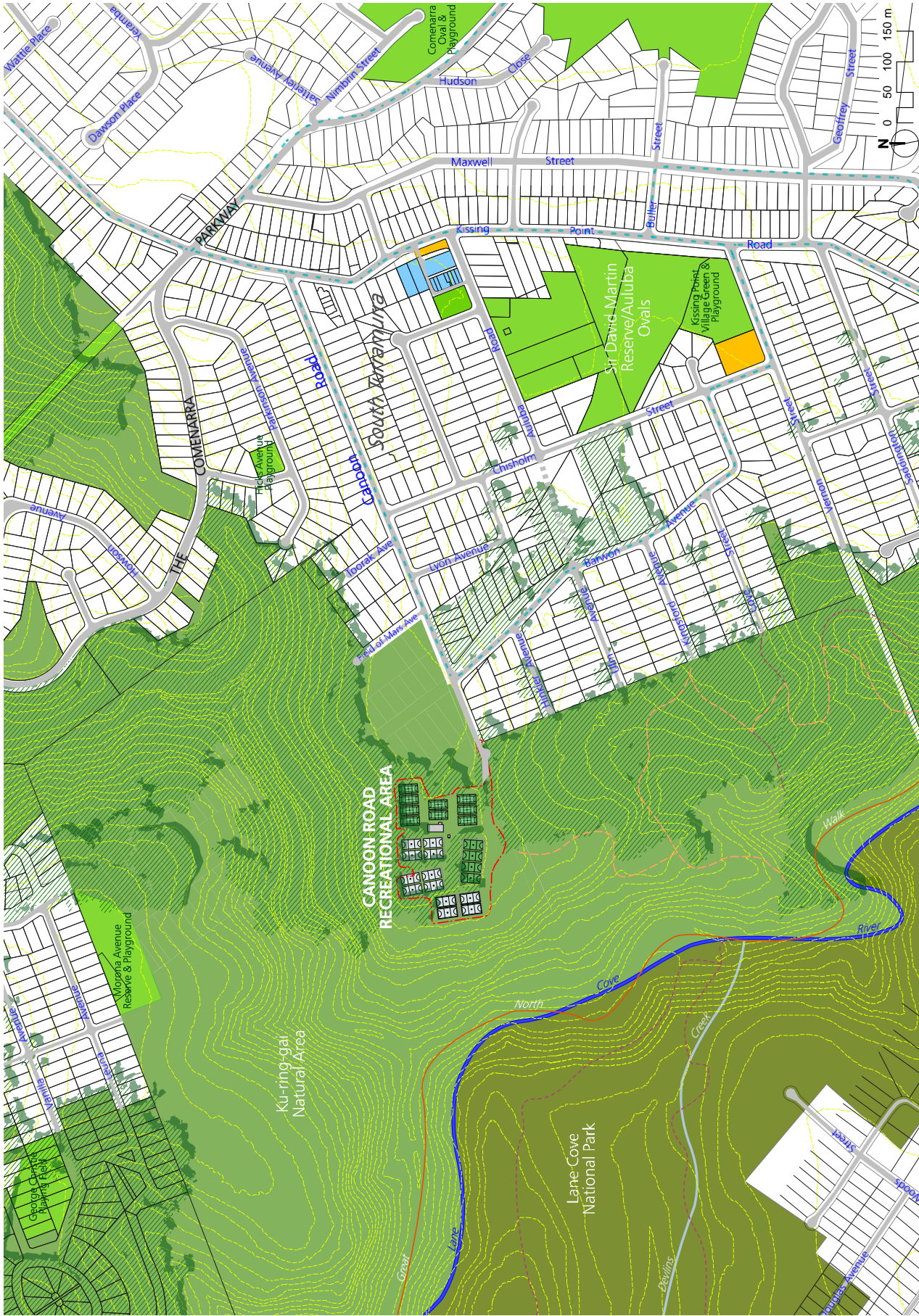


Figure 1.4: Local Context Plan

LOCAL CONTEXT

and consultants that this had significantly improved the traffic flows at the intersection ever since the phasing was altered on Saturdays.

Active recreation

Netball is a very popular sport in Australia with over 100,000 people playing in New South Wales alone, with 98.8% being female players. As well, many thousands of school children participate in school and social netball programs and there is also an increasing participation of players with disabilities.

The Ku-ring-gai Netball Association (KNA) has approximately 4000 registered players who use two locations within the Ku-ring-gai LGA for Saturday games from late March / early April through to September:

- 21 netball courts, 5 of which are also line-marked for tennis at the Canoon Road Recreation Area; and
- 4 courts at the Lofberg Road netball courts in West Pymble.

There are no netball games played during the weekdays or in the evenings as the Canoon Road courts do not have suitable lighting. It has been noted that KNA have determined that the current standard of facilities are preventing growth of participation across ages, cultures, ability levels and time frames.

Also in South Turramurra, soccer is played throughout the winter season and cricket is played throughout the summer season at Auluba Oval No.1 & 2 on Auluba Road. Baseball is played at Auluba Oval No.3 on Kissing Point Road in both the winter and summer seasons.

Passive recreation and tourism

The Recreation Area provides a gateway to a number of local recreational bush walking trails as well as access to the Great North Walk which is a 250km walking path from central Sydney to Newcastle and other Lane Cove River National Park walking trails like the STEP track. STEP is a community-based environmental organisation of over 450 members from Ku-ring-gai and the surrounding suburbs of northern Sydney. Its primary aim is to preserve all natural bushland within the area from alienation and degradation and get people engaged in the surrounding natural environment. Several trail entries can be accessed from local cul-de-sac streets which abut the reserves to the west.

Ku-ring-gai's natural reserves provide many opportunities for leisure and sporting activities such as bushwalking, rock climbing and orienteering, bouldering and abseiling, rogaining, mountain biking and BMX riding. (Plate 1.20 pg.27)



Plate 1.10: Netball courts set in a bushland setting

Aboriginal heritage

In the vicinity of the Canoon Road Recreation Area is an area of approximately 0.5 of a hectare which is a Recorded Aboriginal Heritage Site, but not within the actual recreation area.

4 SITE CONTEXT

Topography and landform

The Canoon Road Recreation Area is situated on a sandstone spur and has a general fall across the site towards the Lane Cove River gully in the west. The netball courts are located on seven terraces all at different levels and sometimes with dramatic level changes between the clusters. The more dramatic level changes have been retained with block retaining walls with fences on top while the more moderate level changes are often exposed and eroding sandstone rock platforms which provide informal seating opportunities for spectators. (Plate 1.11 pg.21)

Six of the court clusters have cut into the site while courts 13 through 16 have been built on fill. As a result of movement, these courts are prone to settling and shifting of the ground below which requires significant ongoing maintenance and resurfacing in order to reduce hazardous surfaces for games.

Stairs and ramps have been installed across the area to access the more extreme level changes.

Many of the natural surfaced areas surrounding the netball courts are eroded as a result of high pedestrian traffic and the coarse grained sandy soils. (Plate 1.24 pg.29)

Threatened ecological species

In NSW some ecological communities are listed under the threatened Species Conservation Act (NSW) 1995 and there are three areas of 'Recorded Threatened Species' abutting the Recreation Area. An area of 'Potential Threatened Species' to the south-west of the site is defined as a zone where threatened species are likely to occur but, as yet, have not been recorded. Discussions with the Ku-ring-gai Council's Bushland Operations Coordinator indicate that future ecological burns may potentially stimulate threatened species recruitment in this zone which might see its classification shift.

Remnant vegetation

Native remnant vegetation stretches across the Recreation Area in fragmented sections. These vegetation areas are generally either single specimens or small to medium sized patches of vegetation which are contained by the highly modified landscape of the netball courts, footpaths and roads.

There is a minimal amount of lower storey vegetation across the site as a result of a combination of poor quality soils and high use. Some shrub plantings and grasses have established where raised garden beds protect plants from trampling.



Plate 1.11: Natural rock platforms adjacent Court 02



Plate 1.13: Typical retaining walls with fencing on the site



Plate 1.12: Established trees planted in raised garden beds

SITE CONTEXT

Ecological burns

An ecological burn is due to be undertaken by Ku-ring-gai Council officers in a zone directly to the south of the Recreation Area. Council advises that the area is likely to see a post-fire, shift to a protected area, subject to the level of threatened species recruitment which occurs in the zone.

Temporary signage has been installed on fence lines surrounding an older burn areas to the south of the Aboriginal Heritage Site which help to educate the community about this important process. (Plate 1.23 pg.28)

Bush fire management

Located between the natural bushland areas and residential areas of South Turrumurra, the Canoon Road Recreation Area is an area largely cleared of natural vegetation, as a consequence the area is categorised as a 'bush fire prone vegetation buffer' however it is surrounded by natural bushland that is classified as a fire buffer zone and has a rating of 'bush fire prone vegetation, Category 1'. There is a fire trail to the south which enables access to natural bushland area through to the Lane Cove River.

Stormwater

As the Canoon Road Recreation Area sits on the threshold with natural bushland areas it is important that water run-off is treated on site before being discharged. Three water detention/ sedimentation basins have been installed around the site. These typically use local drainage lines or the modified landscape contouring with locally available rocks to capture water flows from the hardscape surfaces across the site, to slow the flow of the water which reduces erosion and traps sediment and waste material which would otherwise be discharged into the bushland. (Plate 1.14 pg.22)

Residential and landuse

The South Turrumurra Shopping Village is approximately 1km from the Canoon Road Recreation Area however people involved in Saturday game days tend not to leave the site once they have arrived instead using the small kiosk which operates out of the on-site amenity building or coffee carts which set up temporarily on Saturdays adjacent the amenity building.

There are two playgrounds within the local precinct. The first is located to the rear of the South Turrumurra Shopping Village at Balmaringa Reserve and is a small fenced park with playground

and seating. The second, Kissing Point Village Green, is located close to the corner of Vernon Street and Kissing Point Road and is a large park with dog off-leash area, fenced playground, barbecue and public toilets.

150m north east of the Canoon Road courts is a two storey Girl Guides building. This facility is located on a cleared and relatively flat land with activities occurring weekly on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.



Plate 1.14: An existing water detention basin



Plate 1.15: South Turrumurra Girl Guides hall

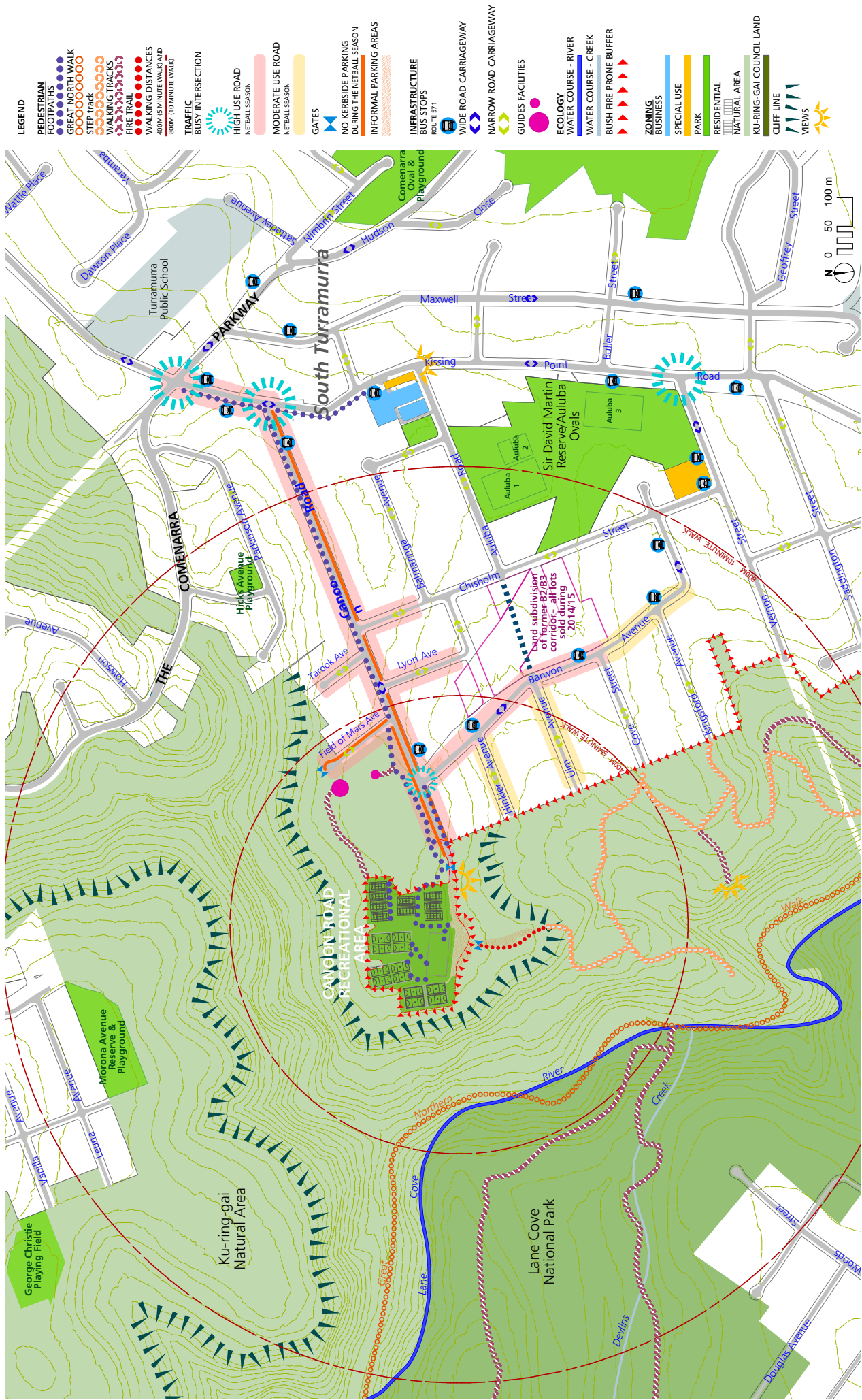


Figure 1.5: Local Context Analysis Plan

SITE CONTEXT

Pedestrian movement

The major periods of pedestrian movements into and out of the Recreation Area occur on Saturdays during the netball season. There are a number of dominant pedestrian access points into the Recreation Area:

- An approach from the south east, where a relatively high number of players are dropped off in a turning circle at the entry to the carpark and filter up via concrete path network through to the amenity building at the centre of the area.
- The east-west asphalt path which heads up towards the amenity building from the informal parking areas to the south as well as the fire trail area. This creates conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians particularly during peak netball activity periods.
- A sealed walking path through bushland to the north of Canoon Road links the intersection with Field of Mars Avenue through to the south east corner of the Recreation Area. This path is under utilised.
- Informal tracks are also used by a small number of pedestrians, at the rear of the residential properties and provide a link from kerbside parking in Hinkler and Ulm Avenues.
- There is an informal walking trail that is not maintained by the Council but which is a popular short cut for players and parents through to court 22 from Field of Mars Avenue.

Active recreation

On Saturdays during the netball season 4,000 members (drawn from the Ku-ring-gai /Hornsby region) compete in the Saturday competition at the Canoon Road Recreation Area with often as many as 2,000 parents, siblings and extended family members turning up to support the players. As well, KNA staff, coaches, health based support teams and food/beverage operators set up tents and tables adjacent the existing amenities building.

All but four of the courts (which are used for parking on Saturdays) run fixtures from 8am through to 5pm with spectators sitting either on rock platforms, existing bench seating or on chairs of their own and standing on the edges of the courts and sitting and standing around the perimeter of the hard courts surfaces.

Temporary fencing is set up around the perimeter of court 01 on game days to clearly demarcate the areas for players on the court and spectators moving around the periphery.

There is also a spring competition which runs on Wednesday afternoons from 4.30pm to 5.30pm before the sun sets.

Five of the courts are also marked with tennis markings and although it is possible to use the courts without booking, during



Plate 1.16: Parents and children walking on the roads between the facility and cars parked in nearby streets



Plate 1.17: Pedestrians and vehicles commingling on the car-park entry road

SITE CONTEXT

school terms there are regular weekday bookings for several primary and high schools in the local area. As well, throughout the year there are regular Sunday morning bookings for private groups.

Passive recreation

The carpark in the Recreation Area is sometimes used by people who park and eat their lunches during the weekdays or park and walk a number of the trails which link from the nearby fire trail.

Some local residents and visitors walk the trails through the surrounding bushland areas and access these from walking trail entry points at the cul-de-sac streets of Hinkler, Ulm and Kingsford Avenues as well as Cove Street. (Plate 1.20 pg.27)

Traffic and parking

Most of the traffic on netball competition days turns from Kissing Point Road into Canoon Road, with a small percentage travelling further south down to the intersection of Vernon Street in order to use various local streets for parking alternatives surrounding the Recreation Area.

Traffic flows outside netball season are low on Canoon Road and other surrounding streets however there is a significant increase of traffic volumes during the netball season on Saturdays which leads to considerable congestion especially during change over of games.

Additionally during the netball season, soccer and baseball games are played at Sir David Martin Reserve/Auluba Ovals which contribute to increased traffic movement and parking congestion in surrounding streets to those effected by Saturday netball fixtures.

Parking on the southern kerb of Canoon Road during the netball season is restricted for the entire length of the road. This does little to alleviate the congestion at these times, as the road carriageway is too narrow to cope with the traffic volumes and multiple traffic movements.

The public bus route (572) that runs west along Canoon Road and operates services half hourly from 8am through to 9pm on Saturdays often struggles to negotiate the congested streets along its route. Although netball players are eligible to received a rebate from KNA for taking public transport to the site, this alternative is not used by many players.

Another traffic congestion issue is the informal parking areas to the south of the Recreation Area which are also encroaching on areas of recorded and potential threatened species as well as a fire trail. On game days an attendant is positioned adjacent the main pedestrian entry and directs vehicles to different zones around the site.

As parking spaces are limited, parking on the courts 09-12 located

at the far west of the Recreation Area, has been made available and a parking attendant is positioned at the entry to these courts to ensure parking spaces are maximised. (Plate 1.18 pg.25)



Plate 1.18: Parking attendant directing traffic



Plate 1.19: Parked vehicles on Courts 09-12



Figure 1.6: The Existing Site

5 THE VALUES

The Canoon Road Recreational Area has characteristics that are valued for their role or potential role in ensuring the site continues to be a popular sporting and recreational area in the region and these characteristics should be retained and strengthened.

The study process has confirmed that active recreation is one of the most dominant values gained from the Recreation Area. It is important that future planning and management decisions reflect this value, with additional strategies applied to increase the values of other aspects of the area.

Active recreational values

The current active recreational value of the area is extremely high, with a large number of the KNA members visiting the site each Saturday to participate in fixtures between March and September.

At other times tennis is played and coached on nine of the courts marked for that purpose.

Players and supporters Canoon Road courts value highly the facilities which are the primary netball court facilities within the LGA.

The active recreation value of the area can be increased by improving the traffic management in and around the area, consolidating and formalising parking, enhancing/ preserving the existing courts and enabling games to be played on other days of the week. As well, additional support facilities such as toilets, change rooms, picnic tables, seating, water taps and shelters would help to maintain and increase the participation numbers of people that use the site for netball and other active sporting pursuits.

Passive recreational values

The current passive recreational value of the area is high. Much of the Lane Cove National Park and bushland reserves can be accessed from the southern area of the Canoon Road Recreation Area via the fire trail and STEP track.

Those people who use the area value its natural setting and lack of development. Many of the present passive recreational users undertake a range of less structured activities that do not require specific facilities however better quality facilities may facilitate greater use of the area. The main activities which take place in areas adjoining the Recreation Area are walking, exploring and mountain biking. The site's relative isolation and low profile outside the netball season means that it mostly draws on a smaller catchment of users who are local residents.

The passive recreation value of the area could be increased by better providing for these users year round (except Saturdays in netball season).



Plate 1.22: Netball games on Saturdays



Plate 1.20: Hiking and bushwalking in the bushland reserves



Plate 1.21: Mountain biking in the bushland reserves

THE VALUES

Ecological values

Due to the density of sporting infrastructure across the site and use during the netball season, much of the remnant vegetation has been removed and struggles to grow and/ or re-establish. However, much of the ecological value of the area comes from the vegetation on adjacent parcels of land where a number of threatened species have been recorded. These bushland reserves provide important bio-linkages or corridors between regional national parks and smaller reserves with the Canoon Road Recreation Area being smaller, nevertheless important link.

The ecological value of the area can be increased by regenerating a second generation remnant planting across the site.

Heritage values

Developed in 1978, the Canoon Road Recreation Area is considered to have a limited heritage value, however there is an area in the vicinity of the Recreation Area boundary that is a recorded Aboriginal Heritage Site.

Any future development and improvement of the recreational and ecological values will need to protect and preserve the Aboriginal Heritage site.



Plate 1.23: An area of recent ecological burn

6 KEY ISSUES

Topography and drainage

Erosion of significance is occurring:

- adjacent many of the sealed pathways as a result of high pedestrian volumes and uncontrolled walking patterns;
- on informal pathways linking between the courts;
- adjacent the courts as a result of spectators spilling over the narrow hard court fringe;
- at the Recreation Area game day hub where temporary tents are erected for player sign-in, physiotherapists, coffee carts and stalls;
- as a result of vehicles moving across the informal unsealed carpark areas and the fire trail to the south of the courts; and
- as a result of drainage from existing rock platforms, natural drainage lines and watercourses.

Pedestrians

- Pathways within the Recreation Area are too narrow to service the volumes of pedestrians moving about the site on game days.
- There is a lack of defined pedestrian paths through the sealed carpark adjacent the netball courts which increases pedestrian/vehicle conflicts.
- There is no defined pedestrian path or surfacing through the fire trail to the south of the carpark adjacent the courts which increases pedestrian/vehicle conflicts.
- In the surrounding streets there is a lack of pedestrian footpaths. Children and parents walk on the roads where they can experience conflict with vehicles.
- Footpaths on the Canon Road verges are discontinuous, swapping between northern and southern sides of the carriageway, which results in pedestrians crossing the road unnecessarily or walking on the roads where they have can conflict with vehicle movement.
- The primary pedestrian entry into the Recreation Area is poorly defined and does not encourage all pedestrians to use it which results in more pedestrians walking through the carpark.
- The sealed walking path, that winds through from Field of Mars Avenue through to the south east corner of the Recreation Area, is under utilised although it provides a link to the Recreation Area that is safe from vehicular traffic.
- Some stair treads are visually not clearly defined, are poorly maintained and uneven.
- People who use the Recreation Area to access the adjoining walking trails on Saturdays during netball season would potentially experience conflict with vehicles.



Plate 1.24: Erosion adjacent pathways/drainage swale



Plate 1.25: Temporary fencing demarcates the edge of the play area

KEY ISSUES

Traffic movement

- The adjoining residential areas enjoy a quiet and peaceful setting on most days of the week. However on Saturdays during the netball season this residential setting is substantially altered by the influx of netball players and their supporters.
- Despite parking being limited to one side of Canoon Road, on Saturdays during the netball season, traffic volumes are high and with the addition of half hourly bus services the local streets become very congested which impacts both the local residents and KNA members.
- Significant congestion at the intersection of Kissing Point Road and The Comenarra Parkway on Saturdays during netball season impacts both the local residents and KNA members.
- Often on Saturdays illegal parking occurs in and around Canoon Road especially on roads adjacent to bushland where the kerb is not clearly defined.
- Traffic flows in and out of the Canoon Road carpark and the adjacent fire trail area are congested on game days especially at change of game times, which results in conflicts between vehicles as well as between vehicles and pedestrians.
- Vehicles dropping off players at the Canoon Road carpark entry vehicle turning circle (before the first gate) conflict with vehicles entering the carpark in search of longer term parking options.
- The fire trail to the south of the Recreation Area is used for parking most Saturdays impacting on access for bush fire and emergency vehicles.
- Although no traffic speed data has been collected, it has been observed that traffic speeds towards the western end of Canoon Road appear to be too high and create a potentially unsafe environment for pedestrians.

Parking

- Limited parking has resulted in courts 09-12 being used as a carpark on game days.
- Parking bays are not marked in the Canoon Road carpark nor on courts 09-12. Parking attendants manage and optimise parking configurations on game days.
- The KNA have requested an additional 50-100 parking spaces to help alleviate parking issues in local streets however there is limited room for such expansion under Council's obligations to protect bushland.
- As a result of undefined boundaries to the car parking area, vehicles are pushing into vegetated areas to park resulting in



Plate 1.26: Sediment and litter spilling into the bushland



Plate 1.27: Cars parked in vegetated areas

- erosion, habitat loss and potential hazards for drivers.
- With limited on site parking, vehicles sometimes park as far as 800m away from the Recreation Area. This contributes to traffic congestion and increases the levels of disturbance in

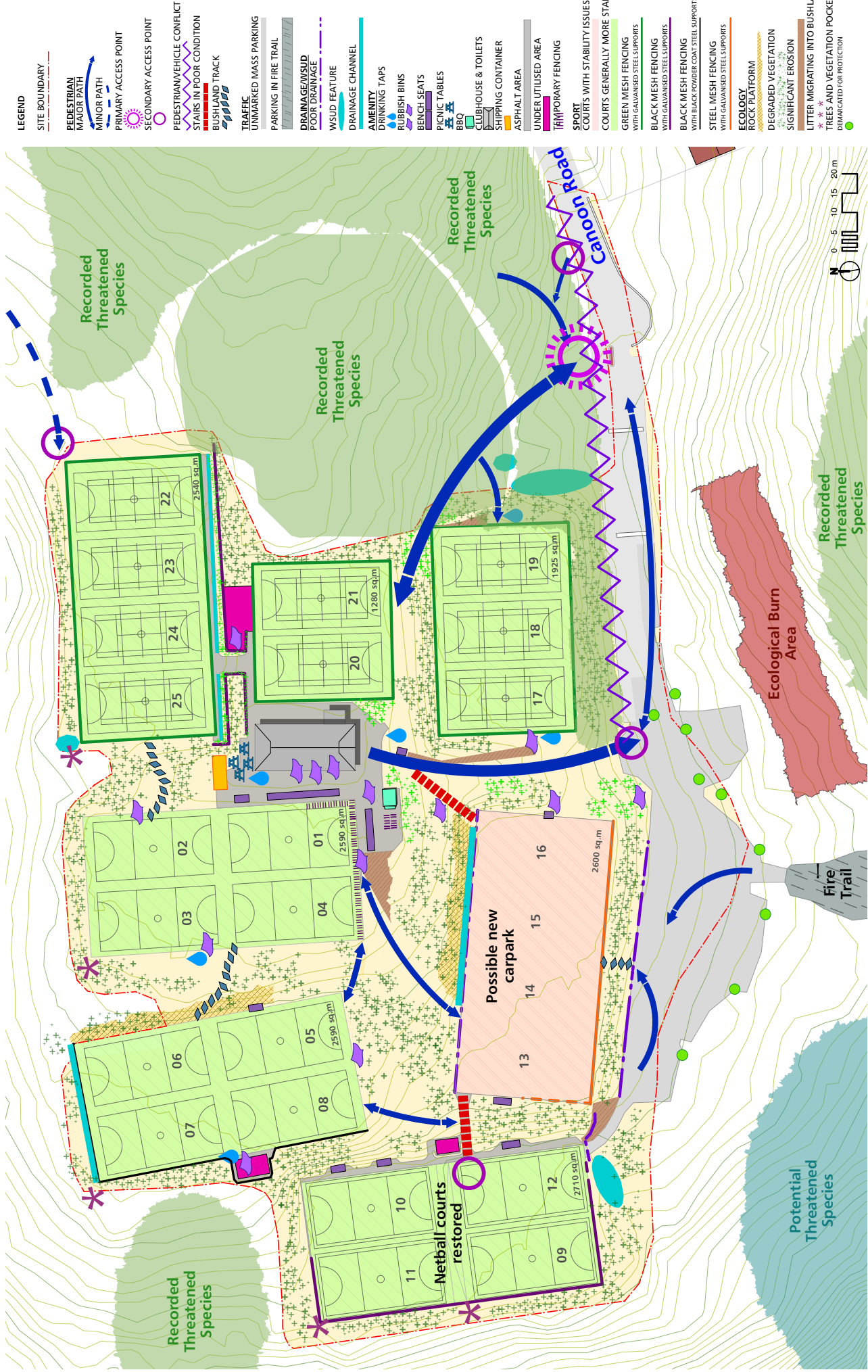


Figure 1.7: Site Analysis Plan

KEY ISSUES

the otherwise quiet areas of the surrounding local streets.

Drainage/Water Sensitive Urban Design

- Not all hard court clusters have Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) features collecting the water flows, sediment and litter from the courts which results in unwanted run-off and rubbish flowing directly into adjacent bushland areas.
- Some spoon drains do not appear to flow to detention basins especially courts 22-25.
- There is poor drainage and severe erosion in areas adjacent courts 13-16.
- A large amount of sediment build-up is located at the south-eastern corner of court 12 as a result of a steep open concrete drainage channel which is poorly maintained.
- The water quality control basins require regular and on-going maintenance to improve their efficiency of operation.
- Water from the carpark is largely unchecked, flowing directly into bushland, transferring nutrients and altering vegetation composition to weeds.
- The carpark lacks any formalised bio-retention, apart from random tree islands, and therefore no interception of flows before discharge into adjoining bushland.

Amenity

- Fencing mesh and post finishes vary across the site and these should be coordinated to Council's standard of black chainmesh to enhance the natural bushland setting of the area.
- Handrails are often isolated from the paths and act more as guide rails corralling pedestrians through the site rather than providing stabilizing assistance for them.
- There are multiple types of rubbish bins across the site from fixed barrel styled bins to wheelie bins that get positioned where required on game day. The lack of consistency reduces the visual amenity through the site.
- Lack of spectator seating around the courts.
- There is no fixed bench seating surrounding courts 20-25.
- Courts 20-21 are serviced by limited seating
- Currently there are only four bench tables with seating adjacent the amenities building which is insufficient given that there are often high spectator numbers on game days.
- Existing seating to the main courts 01-04 is well utilised but struggles to meet demand.
- The style of drinking fountains varies across the site making it difficult to clearly locate them while also contributing to run-off erosion. Also, there is deficit of these facilities servicing each of the court clusters.



Plate 1.28: Different fencing finishes



Plate 1.29: The existing amenities building

- The existing amenities and clubhouse building is under capacity to meet demand is approaching the end of its lifetime.
- A shipping container provides additional storage but is unattractive and of a temporary nature.
- Outside of the netball season facilities such as toilets and water availability is limited for other sports to utilise.

KEY ISSUES

- Currently courts 09-12 which area used for car parking, are in poor condition with some vandalism, buckling fences and a lack of rubbish bins and water taps.
- Some anti-social and undesirable behaviour has been reported by local residents at the Canoon Road lower courts in the evenings with damage and littering occurring.

Sporting facilities

- High numbers of players attend Saturday fixtures usually arriving and departing the Canoon Road facility during short change of game times which contributes to congestion in surrounding streets.
- Under supply of defined sealed areas for activities such as health based support teams and food/beverage operators to set up tents and tables.
- Poor playing surface on courts 13-16 which require on-going and expensive maintenance or major reconstruction.

Ecology

- Significant numbers of established remnant trees exist across the site, however the nature of the highly used pedestrian site means that second generation trees have failed to establish. Second generation trees are necessary to ensure that shade and biodiversity links are maintained in the future. Further investigation of significant remnant trees and bushland is required to be undertaken to ensure appropriate demarcation and protection.
- Vegetation struggles to grow due to a combination of poor quality soils and high levels of use.
- Bushland to the south of the site needs to be protected from vehicle parking encroaching.
- Trees and vegetation pockets in the existing carpark and fire trail need to be assessed prior to any works in their vicinity.
- Areas of recorded Threatened Species occur around the perimeter of the site that are required to be protected.
- As a result of undefined boundaries, vehicles often push into surrounding bushland areas eroding the areas causing environmental impacts.

7 VISION

The vision for the Canoon Road Recreation Area will guide the development of management strategies as well as the specific actions that are proposed in this Plan of Management.

Realising the vision for the area will rely on a collaborative approach by Council, KNA and the community. The development of detailed actions and allocation of suitable levels of funding will be critical steps in the process of achieving the strategies defined under this vision.

The Canoon Road Recreational Area will be enhanced and improved to create an area that builds on the inherent natural qualities of the site and protects the natural systems.

Quality active recreational facilities will continue to meet the needs of local sporting groups whilst aiming to reduce the impacts on adjoining residents and passive recreational pursuits - all site enhancements and upgrades will enable a greater appreciation of the setting by all users.

Through this approach, the Canoon Road Recreation Area will continue to be well used by the local community, local sporting groups and also attract a number of visitors from the wider region for a range of activities.



Plate 1.30: Scribbly Gum at the Canoon Road Recreation Area

8 MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

8.1 Core Objectives

These prescribed core objectives set the framework within which a series of project specific objectives that directly correlate to the key issues are developed.

1. Minimise the impacts of vehicular traffic from sporting activities upon residents and the bushland environment.
2. Encourage, promote and facilitate passive recreational pursuits for local residents and the general public across the site especially outside of the netball season.
3. Provide sporting facilities that meet the current and future sporting needs (for training and playing) of user clubs and associations.
4. Provide a recreation and sporting facility that contributes towards meeting the needs of local sporting groups and the community and limits the negative impacts on adjoining land uses, the locality generally and the Lane Cove River catchment.
5. Investigate options to enable provision of additional parking to support the ongoing use of the facilities by sporting groups.
6. Conserve and/or increase bushland across the site to ensure bio-diversity is maintained and soils are stabilised.
7. Establish maintenance programs to an agreed standard to ensure a safe and attractive environment for all users and visitors.
8. Ensure ongoing ecological viability by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values, flora and fauna and other ecological values.
9. Protect existing landform features such as natural drainage lines and watercourses, rock platforms and outcrops.



Plate 1.31: Erosion in the fire trail areas



Plate 1.32: The central hub of the Recreation Area on game day



- LEGEND**
- SITE BOUNDARY
 - TREES AND VEGETATION PLOTS IDENTIFIED BY COUNCIL FOR PROTECTION
 - MATURE TREES AS IDENTIFIED IN THE SURVEY (1996)
 - EXISTING TREES INCLUDING LOW SHRUB SPECIES AS IDENTIFIED FROM THE AERIAL
 - AREAS OF POSSIBLE NEW KEY ACTIONS
 - KEY ACTIONS IN MANAGEMENT STRATEGY CHAPTER

Figure 1.8: Strategic Management Plan

9 ACTION PLAN

9.1 Key Actions

The following table lists key actions to be investigated in order to address the identified issues and meet the core objectives for the site. (Figure 1.8 pg.36)

Table 1.2: Action Plan

Performance target	Action	Responsibility	Priority (H,M,L)
Topography			
Protected and enhanced natural topographic features Canoon Road	1. Investigate potential path edges to ensure erosion is minimised.	Manager Open Space Operations	High
	2. Investigate options for implementing erosion control measures to informal bush paths around the Recreation Area to reduce erosion.	Manager Open Space Operations	High
	3. Investigate extending the paved areas surrounding the courts to facilitate more spectators.	Manager Strategic Projects	Medium
	4. Explore alternatives for extending the pavement to the south of courts 01 and 04 for temporary tents, player sign-in, physiotherapist tables and investigate using semi porous paving to ensure the impact to any existing trees (roots and canopy) is minimised.	Manager Strategic Projects	Medium
	5. Allocate areas for food and beverage carts to use on game day.	Manager Community & Recreation Services	Medium
	6. Investigate options for formalising the gravel carpark areas.	Manager Strategic Projects	High
	7. Develop a strategy to formalise the fire trail parking and ensure the fire trail is maintained as a "Category 1 Essential" fire trail.	Manager Strategic Projects	High
	8. Repair steps, ramps and circulation paths.	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Open Space Operations	Medium
Pedestrians			
Accessible pathways suitable for different levels of mobility are provided	9. Investigate the potential for widening paths where possible within the recreation area.	Manager Strategic Projects	Medium
	10. Investigate the potential for a segregated footway on the northern edge of the entry road adjacent the trees. Parking spaces that were lost in this process would need to be located elsewhere on site. Consider the use of bollards to separate pedestrian and vehicle movements and improve safety.	Manager Strategic Projects	High
	11. Investigate providing a pedestrian crossing/ refuge point across Canoon Road at the entry to the carpark.	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Traffic & Transport	High
	12. Investigate providing a network of continuous footpaths adjacent local streets surrounding the Recreation area.	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Engineering Operations	High

ACTION PLAN

Performance target	Action	Responsibility	Priority (H,M,L)
	13. Investigate formalising the primary pedestrian entry point to make this entry more desirable, accessible and visible.	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Engineering Operations	High
	14. Improve the path from Field of Mars Avenue.	Manager Open Space Operations	High
	15. Investigate if the visibility contrast and cross falls of stairs could be improved.	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Open Space Operations	Medium
Traffic Movement			
Site traffic responsibly managed	16. Formalise car parking and vehicle circulation within the carpark to the south of the Recreation Area to enable traffic and pedestrians to move around the area more safely.	Manager Strategic Projects	High
	17. Investigate a better drop off location and system to ensure that congestion is minimised at the entry to the Recreation Area and pedestrian safety is prioritised.	Manager Strategic Projects	High
	18. Undertake a precinct wide traffic study which would identify opportunities to better manage the current traffic movements and parking associated with the multiple sporting fixtures that occur throughout the year (soccer, cricket, baseball, netball).	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Urban & Heritage Planning	High
	19. Investigate the possibility of traffic calming measures to be used on Canoon Road particularly at its western end.	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Traffic & Transport	High
	20. Investigate the signal phasing at the Kissing Point Road and The Comenarra Parkway intersection in order to identify any improvements which might be possible for egress out of South Turramurra on Saturdays, during netball season under current conditions.	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Traffic & Transport	High
Parking			
- Improved overall availability and access to parking	21. Investigate methods to define parking areas on the western side of Field of Mars Avenue to ensure that vehicles do not encroach into adjacent bushland areas.	Manager Strategic Projects	High
	22. Consider strategies such as education and enforcement to increase awareness of the issue of illegal parking in and around Canoon Road.	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Traffic & Transport	High
	23. Investigate the option of converting netball courts 13-16 into car parking and reinstating courts 09-12 into netball playing surfaces to maximise safety.	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Open Space Operations	High
	24. Prepare a design which formalises and extends the parking area to the south of the courts and does not extend into bushland areas any further than the survey markers set out on site.	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Open Space Operations	High
	25. Explore options for relocating the disabled parking, currently at the exit gates, closer to the central main entry path.	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Open Space Operations	High

ACTION PLAN

Performance target	Action	Responsibility	Priority (H,M,L)
Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)			
- Water is used and managed sustainably	26. Install WSUD basins to all off-site drainage points to collect litter, silt and debris and arrange regular maintenance.	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Environment & Sustainability	Medium
	27. Ensure that shallow spoon drains draining the court playing surfaces feed into the WSUD basins.	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Environment & Sustainability	Medium
	28. Undertake regular maintenance of the water quality control basins, drainage lines, swales and channels.	Manager Open Space Operations	High
Amenity			
- Improved amenity for sporting groups and local community	29. Progressively replace fencing with visually reductive black post and black mesh cyclone fencing.	Manager Strategic Projects	Low
	30. Investigate handrail placement so that they provide stabilizing assistance for users.	Manager Strategic Projects	Low
	31. Provide drinking fountains and taps with drainage to control run-off at key points to service courts.	Manager Strategic Projects	Low
	32. Investigate an additional amenity building to increase the number of male and female toilets, umpires room, first aid room and additional storage.	Manager Strategic Projects	Medium
	33. Implement sports lighting on a maximum of 9 courts for mid-week use in order to reduce the number of Saturday games so as to reduce local impacts on Saturdays in terms of traffic, parking and noise.	Manager Strategic Projects	High
	34. Investigate the selection of a co-ordinated palette of colours and designs for ancillary facilities such as spectator seating, benches, barbecues, water fountains, garbage bins and picnic shelters across the site.	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Engineering Operations	High
	35. Investigate additional bench seating to be installed adjacent to the courts.	Manager Strategic Projects	Medium
	36. Improve amenity of courts 09-12 with vandalism repaired, fencing updated, rubbish bins and water taps installed.	Manager Strategic Projects	Medium
	37. Ensure undesirable behavior is minimised by continuing to lock security gates at the entrance to the netball courts each evening and opening them again in the mornings.	Manager Engineering Operations, Manager Open Space Operations	High
	38. Consider the option of security patrols especially in summer months.	Manager Engineering Operations, Manager Open Space Operations	High

ACTION PLAN

Performance target	Action	Responsibility	Priority (H,M,L)
Sporting facilities			
- Recreation and sporting facilities that meet the needs of local sporting groups and the community	39. Operating under lights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For training on Mondays Tuesdays and Wednesdays on up to 9 courts (courts 1 – 4, 20, 22 – 25) between 4.30pm – 8.00pm for the netball season, from March to September. For competition games or training on Thursday on up to 9 courts (courts 1 – 4, 20, 22 – 25) between 4.30pm – 8.00pm for the netball season, from March to September. <p>No fixtures or training under lights on Fridays.</p>	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Community & Recreation Services	High
	40. Investigate increased hard surface areas adjacent to courts 01-08 to reduce erosion and provide more space for circulation and spectators for improved player safety.	Manager Strategic Projects	Medium
	41. Investigate permanently re locating netball games from courts 13-16 onto courts 09-12 to reduce ongoing maintenance costs and long term reconstruction.	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Open Space Operations	High
	42. Reinstate courts 09-12 as netball courts to a playable level.	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Open Space Operations	High
Ecology			
- Protected and enhanced ecological qualities and biodiversity	43. Investigate methods of establishing second generation vegetation trees across the site.	Manager Environment & Sustainability, Manager Open Space Operations	Medium
	44. Consider the implementation of barriers to restrict access to vegetated areas and increase the amount of lower storey planting to improve soil conditions and help prevent erosion	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Open Space Operations	Medium
	45. Ensure that ecological burns are undertaken where appropriate and burn areas are protected from access by vehicles and pedestrians.	Manager Open Space Operations	High
	46. Ensure that identified trees and vegetation pockets are protected when the car parking area is expanded and formalised.	Manager Strategic Projects, Manager Environment & Sustainability	High
	47. Investigate strategies for increasing awareness of the issue of litter and its impact on ecological values across the area and in surrounding local streets with increased education and other measures.	Manager Community & Recreation Services, Manager Environment & Sustainability, Manager Waste	High

10 MONITORING PROGRAM

The management strategy Key Actions and Core Objectives will be reviewed every five years. The review will include:

- a report on progress of the plan;
- recommendations for alterations to the management strategy (if applicable);
- any other necessary alterations due to new usage trends.

The core values will be reviewed and a new plan of management prepared every fifteen years, or sooner if any core values change during this time.



Plate 1.33: Eroded areas adjacent the path network



Plate 1.34: Typical concrete path

11 REFERENCES

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- Bushland Reserve Plan of Management, Ku-Ring-Gai Council, November 2013
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- Traffic and Transport Plan 2011-2020, Ku-Ring-Gai Council, 16-06-2011
- Local Environmental Plan, Ku-ring-gai Council, 2013
- Ku-ring-gal Planning Scheme (as amended), Ku-ring-gai Council, 25th January 2013



Plate 1.35: Parking in the fire trail



Plate 1.36: Open drainage system blocked with debris

CANON ROAD RECREATION AREA
DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT- LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN



Figure 1.9: Landscape Master Plan June 2015

